

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 05683 172127Z

60

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 100092

O R 171930Z JUL 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4712

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5683

EXDIS

NOFORN

FOR EUR/RPM

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG

SUBJ: CSCE: DUTCH TACTICS

REF: STATE 167368

1. OUR RELATIONS WITH DUTCH AND BELGIAMN DELEGATIONS HERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EXCELLENT, AND THEY CONTINUE TO BE SO. BOTH DEL-EGATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE DUTCH, HAVE CHOSE THE ROLE OF ANCHOR TO WINDWARD FOR THE WESTERN POSITION IN CSCE, AHD HAVE GENERALY RESISTED COMPROMISE SOLUTIONS. THIS HAS NOT REPEAT NOT CONFLICTED WITH THE GENERAL TENDENCY OF THE WESTERN GROUP (EC-NINE AND NATO) UNTIL QUITE RECENTLY, WHEN VIRTUALLY ALL DELEGATIONS HERE PERCEIVED THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD CONCLUDE THIS SUMMER. IN THIS CHANGED SITUATION MOST WESTERN DELEGATIONS RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY ON BOTH SUBSTANCE AND WORKING METHODS. THE DUTCH AND BELGIANS, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO CLING TO THEIR EARLIER VIEWPOINTS ON BOTH ASPECTS OF CONFERENCE WORK. AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS OF SHARP DEBATE WITHIN EC-NINE AND NATO CAUCUS, IT BEGAN TO BECOME APPAENT THAT THE DUTCH AND BELGIANS HAD SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS TO OBSTRUCT POSSIBILITIES FOR HOLDING STAGE III IN JULY. OPEN CONFERENCE SPECULATION WAS THAT THE DUTCH AND BELGIAN GOVERNMENTS, WITH AN EYE TO PUBLIC REACTIONS, HAD SIMPLY DECIDED TO DENY BREZHNEV

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 05683 172127Z

THE JULY SUMMIET HE WANTED, REGARDLESS OF SUBSTANTIVE

PROGRESS IN CSCE ITSELF. WHILE WE RECOMMEND STRONGLY THAT THIS NOT BE REPEAT NOT BE MENTIONED TO THE DUTCH, WE ARE INFORMED THAT THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR ACTUALLY AT LEAST ONE NATO AMBASSADOR IN EARLY JULY THAT THESE WERE HIS INSTRUCTIONS. WE HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR ECHOES CONCERNING THE BELGIAN POSITION (SEE GENEVA5418).

2. THE DUTCH AND BELGIANS HAVE WORKED TOGETHER CLOSELY THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE, ON THE BASIS OF BENELUX UNITY, AND THEY HAVE EVIDENTLY COORDINATED THEIR HEEL-DRAGGING TACTICS IN RECENT WEEKS. THIS HAS BEEN MANIFESTED IN POSITIONS THESE DELEGATIONS HAVE TAKEN ON BOTH SUBSTANCE AND PROCEDURE:

A. VOLUNTARY BASIS FOR CBMS--THE DUTCH WERE THE ONLY WESTERN DELEGATION WITHHOLDING CONSENSUS ON THE UK "VOLUNTARY BASIS" FORMULA FOR CBMS UNTIL A FINAL COMPROMISE WAS FOUND JULY 17. SOME MEMBERS OF THE NATO CAUCUS SPECULATED THAT THE REASON FOR THIS DUTCH POSITION WAS THAT THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT HAD HOPED TO USE CSCE AGREEMENT ON CBMS TO HELP TO JUSTIFY FURTHER CUTS IN DUTCH DEFENSE SPENDING, AND FACT THAT CBMS ARE ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS WOULD UNDERCUT USEFULNESS OF CBM AGREEMENT FOR THIS PURPOSE.

B. PRINCIPLES--DUTCH HAVE TAKEN AN NUMBER OF IDIO-SYNCRATIC POSITIONS ON POINTS WITHIN THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, AND OFTEN REFUSED TO BUDGE.

C. MEETING SCHEDULE--DUTCH RESISTED ALL EFFORTS TO HAVE LATE MEETINGS OR EXTRA MEETINGS IN ORDER TO COMPLETE URGENT BUSINESS IN TIME FOR LATE JULY SUMMIT. INCIDENTS WERE TOO NUMEROUS TO CITE, BUT MOST OUTSTANDING AND IRRITATING EXAMPLE WAS WHEN ALL PROGRESS ON PRINCIPLES AND, BECAUSE OF INTERLOCKING RESERVATIONS, THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE, DEPENDED ON REGISTRATION OF PEACEFUL CHANGE SENTENCE. USDEL, SUPPORTED BY FRG AND ALL OTHER NATO ALLIES, PROPOSED A SPECIAL MEETING EVENING OF JULY 8 TO REGISTER US-PROPOSED PEACEFUL CHANGE LANGUAGE. DUTCH AND BELGIANS REFUSED TO AGREE TO THIS EXTRA MEETING, AND IT WAS ONLY WHEN THE MALTESE(SIC*) SAID THEY WERE THE SMALLEST DELEGATION PRESENT AND COULD ACCEPT AN EXTRA MEETING THAT THE DUTCH AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 05683 172127Z

BELGIANS RELUCTANTLY CONCURRED. MEETING TOOK 25 MINUTES, RESULTED IN REGISTRATION OF PEACEFUL CHANGE, AND THUS OPENED THE WAY TO A SERIES OF AGREEMENTS NEEDED FOR SETTING STAGE III DATE.

D. STAGE III DATE--DUTCH AND BELGIANS PREVENTED EC-NINE MAJORITY FROM AGREEING ON A PROPOSAL ON STAGE III TIMING WHICH WOULD HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE TO BEGIN IN EARLY JULY TO MOVE TOWARD A LATE JULY SUMMIT. A

BITTER ARGUMENT ON THIS POINT DURING EC-NINE POL DIRS MEETING JULY 7-8 RESULTED IN AN EC-NINE TIMING PROPOSAL WHOSE EFFECT WOULD HAVE BEEN TO EXCLUDE A JULY STAGE III. ONLY AN INDEPENDENT CANADIAN EFFORT TO SAVE JULY TIMING TURNED THIS SITUATION AROUND, AND IF JULY STAGE III SHOULD FALL THROUGH, IT WILL BE LARGELY BECAUSE OF DUTCH AND BELGIAN SLOWDOWN EFFORTS IN EARLY JULY.

3. OUR APPEALS TO DUTCH AND BELGIAN DELS, COUPLED WITH TELEPHONE CALLS FROM DEP ASST SEC LOWENSTEIN, TURNED DUTCH AND BELGIANS AROUND OVERNIGHT, AND WITHIN 48 HOURS BOTH DELEGATIONS WERE ASTONISHING THEIR COLLEAGUES BY COOPERATING IN SETTING UP EXTRA NEGOTIATING SESSIONS, ETC. DESPITE THEIR SHARP REACTION, THEREFORE, OUR DEMARCHES HAVE HAD THE DESIRED EFFECT, AND THE DRAMATIC CHANGE IN DUTCH AND BELGIAN DELEGATION ATTITUDES DEMONSTRATES THAT THEIR PREVIOUS TACTICS WERE INDEED DELIBERATELY INDEPENDENT AND UNHELPFUL.

4. WE CONSIDER THIS INCIDENT CLOSED AND STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY THE HAGUE ALLOW IT TO FADE AWAY AND BE FORGOTTEN. DALE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, POLICIES, MEETINGS, CBM, STAGE III
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA05683
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750247-0912
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750748/aaaabqig.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 167368
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <16 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CSCE: DUTCH TACTICS
TAGS: PFOR, XG, NL, BE, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006